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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/978,391	10/16/2001	Gary H. Knauf	56766.US	4251
408	7590	11/17/2003	EXAMINER	
LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C. P O BOX 1871 KNOXVILLE, TN 37901			DIXON, MERRICK L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1774	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CLO 9

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/978,391	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KNAUF, GARY H.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Merrick Dixon	<b>Art Unit</b> 1774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Amdt a, filed 9-8-03.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 1-29 and 37-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugihara(4276334) in view of Laiho et al(5700586) for reasons as set forth in the previous office action, inter alia.

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Applicant's arguments filed 9-8-03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that the novel aspect of the claimed invention is the aspect of the strip adhered to the substrate and the cited references fails to teach this aspect. Applicants argue that the secondary reference fails to teach this aspect and that same reference further teaches away from the novel aspect as articulated. The examiner respectfully disagrees. The primary reference indeed teaches this bondless relationship between its substrate and its strip- see figs. 1a,2 and 3. Regarding to the secondary reference's contention, the examiner wishes to remind applicants that the secondary reference was not cited for what it fails to teach. The secondary reference was employed for reasons as specifically articulated in the office action, inter alia.

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Applicant's election with traverse of claims 1-29 and 37-43 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that for restriction to be proper, the claimed and restricted invention must be

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distinct and independent Secondly, applicants argue that there must be a serious burden to the examiner if restriction is not required. This is not found persuasive because it is submitted the inventions are both distinct and independent as shown by their respective classes. Additionally, the searches for the respective inventions would indeed be burdensome to the examiner as same searches requires searches for different limitations that do not overlap.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

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This application contains claims 30-36 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in Paper No. 5. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancelation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

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**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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**Crystal Plaza Three Fax Center**

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A facsimile center has been established in Crystal Plaza 3. The hours of operations are Mondays through Friday, 8:45 to 4:45 PM. This new location should be used in all instances when faxing any correspondence to Group 1700. The Patent Examining Fax Center new telecopier numbers are (703) 305-3599 for all After Finals and 703-305-5408 for all others. Use of the new Crystal Plaza 3 center will facilitate rapid delivery of materials to the group. The faxing of all papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 O.G. 30 ( November 15, 1989).

**New!** Applicants who wish to send a facsimile (draft copies) for the examiner's immediate review can now do so by using the Examiner Dixon's personal fax number at 703-872-9514. **NOTE: All facsimiles sent to the examiner's personal fax number should be in draft-forms and will be treated as informal.**

**Same facsimiles will not be entered** in the related applications unless otherwise noted by the examiner.

**Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose number is (703)308-0661.**

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Any questions concerning the instant communication should be directed to Examiner Dixon, at 703-308-0013, Mondays to Thursdays, between 12 noon and 8 PM, eastern time .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Merrick Dixon', with a stylized, cursive script.

Merrick Dixon

Primary Examiner

Group 1700